



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE TEMPLE AT MUSHENNEF, HAURÂN, SYRIA

[PLATES I-IV]

THROUGH the kindness of Professor Howard Crosby Butler, who has lent me his notes and photographs, taken on the American Archaeological Expedition to Syria in 1900, I have been able to make a restoration of the temple found at Mushennef.¹

The site of Mushennef, which is that of ancient Nela (Waddington, *Inscriptions de la Syrie*, note on No. 2211), seems to have been an early place of worship, and there still remain the ruins of a temple surrounded by a paved court and its enclosing wall. On what appears to have been the lintel of a gateway in the north side of this wall, is an inscription of the time of Agrippa I (Waddington, *op. cit.*, No. 2211), which would lead us to believe that this wall enclosed a temple or shrine of Zeus as early as the first half of the first century. Another inscription near this, however, is of the time of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, and it is possible that the wall may have been rebuilt during that Emperor's reign (Waddington, *op. cit.* No. 2212). The architectural details of the temple also seem to point to a period about the time of this last inscription, *i.e.* 171 A.D., and the style of the monument seems a little later than that of the temple at 'Atil, which is dated 151 A.D. These facts have been deduced from the material gathered by Professor William K. Prentice, another member of the expedition.²

¹ For the photographs from which the greater part of the restoration has been made, see Butler, *Publications of an American Archaeological Expedition to Syria*; Part II, *Architecture in Northern Central Syria and the Djebel Haurân*, pp. 347-351. PLATES III and IV, and Figs. 2 and 3, are reproduced from this work by the kind permission of Professor Butler and The Century Company.

² *Publications of an American Archaeological Expedition to Syria*; Part III, *Inscriptions*, Nos. 380, 380 a, 381.

A considerable portion of the superstructure of the temple is still standing, and it is from photographs of these parts, and from measurements taken on the spot, that the restorations here presented were made. The plan is distyle *in antis* (Fig. 1),

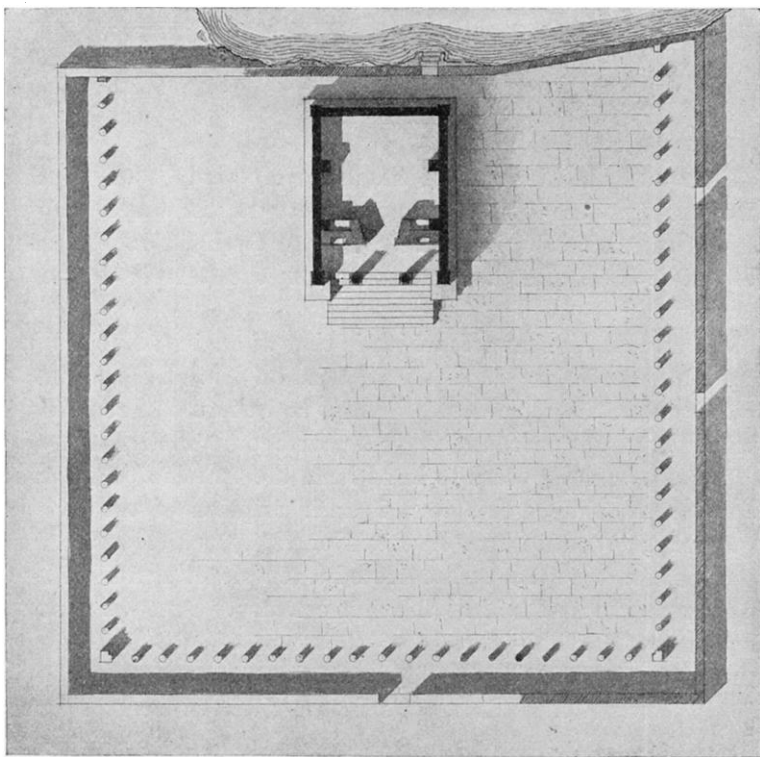


FIGURE 1.—PLAN OF THE TEMENOS.

though at some time the front wall of the cella has been removed, and portions of it, together with fragments from other parts of the ruins, have been built into the spaces between the columns and antae. The cella was apparently crossed by a transverse arch, for portions of the piers still remain on the interior of the two side walls. The temple stands on a podium, 13.45 m. by 9.60 m. square, and is approached by a flight of steps which are still *in situ*, an unusual thing in Syrian temple ruins. The base of the podium is buried by débris so that its

mouldings cannot be certainly known, but the cap is still visible, and consists of a cyma recta above a quarter round with its two fillets. Both of the columns are standing to about one third of their original height, and their plinth blocks rest on the second step from the top. Their base is of the ordinary Attic type with a scotia between two torus mouldings. The lower portions of



FIGURE 2. — PILASTER-CAP, ARCHITRAVE, AND FRIEZE OF SOUTHWEST ANGLE OF TEMPLE.

their capitals, consisting of two rows of acanthus leaves, have been built into the rough east wall above what remains of the columns, and would seem to indicate that these columns were of the Corinthian order; but the upper part of one, found lying near by, consisted of a pair of small Ionic scrolls with an egg

and dart echinus, thus proving them to have been of the Composite type.

Three of the angle pilasters are also *in situ*, and their height is 7.63 m. from the podium to the top of their caps. These caps are fine examples of the Corinthian style (Fig. 2) with rather salient angles, as the perspective shows (PLATE I). Their bases have a low plinth block surmounted by a scotia between two torus mouldings. These mouldings are beautifully carved in a manner characteristic only of a few Syrian bases. (*E.g.* Temples of Zeus and of Helios [?] at ẖanawât.) The lower torus is carved with the guilloche, the scotia with perpendicular reeds in groups of three, and the small torus with bay leaves.

The architrave and the frieze, with its egg and dart bed-mould for the cornice, are still standing on parts of the walls, and have the forms and proportions shown in the elevation of the façade (PLATE II). No part of a broken or arcuated architrave between the two columns was found, but from the wide intercolumniation and the fact that this form of architrave was common in the Roman architecture of Syria (Serâyâ at ẖanawât, remains of Propylaea at Damascus, South Temple at 'Atîl), it has been assumed in the drawing. The architrave is two-stepped, and is carved with a meander with flowers and rosettes, probably of different patterns, in the alternate spaces. Its cymatium is carved with a band of egg and dart and a running foliate design. The frieze consists of a rinceau of acanthus crowned by an unusually heavy egg and dart moulding. Above the frieze, the cyma recta and slant of the roof are conjectural though there is evidence for both of them from ruins at other places in Syria. The roof of the so-called North Temple at 'Atîl was of gable form, built on transverse arches. There are three special arguments to support the conjecture of the cymatium cornice. First: In none of the ruins in the Ḥaurân, outside of Boṣra, are there any remains of the Corinthian cornice with consols; but in all of them there are abundant remains of a rather salient cyma recta of such large scale that it could hardly have been anything but a cornice. Second: Buildings of this size were undoubtedly roofed with stone, and roofing slabs are found both at 'Atîl and Mushennef with their ends carved in the form of a cyma recta. Third: In

the front wall of a Roman basilica at Shaḡḡā, a niche, which may be taken to represent the façade of a temple, has both an arcuated architrave and a cymatium cornice.¹

Still more was assumed in drawing the front wall of the cella. Among the fragments in the present rough wall (Fig. 3) are



FIGURE 3.—MODERN WALL COMPOSED OF ANCIENT FRAGMENTS, BETWEEN ANTAE AND COLUMNS OF TEMPLE.

parts of a lintel, ornamented with a grapevine, which from its size and form seems to have been the lintel of the main doorway, and has been used as such. A large broken console is also present, and may have been one of a pair on either side of the door, though this has not been shown in the drawing. At 'Atil, a curved niche above a rectangular one was found on either side

¹ De Vogüé, *Syria Centrale : Architecture Civile et Religieuse*, Pl. 15; Butler, *op. cit.* pp. 366, 367.

of the central entrance,¹ and in this rough wall at Mushennef is an ornamental lintel, which from its size and style of ornament—a meander, like that of the architrave—would seem to have been the top of one of these rectangular niches. As for the curved niche, no parts remain, and it has been entirely assumed from examples at the North Temple at 'Atil and elsewhere. The arch over the doorway is a common expedient in Syria, both for admitting light and for discharging the pressure from the flat lintel, and therefore this feature has been included.²

The peribolos of the temple (PLATE III) is paved with flat stones of various sizes, smoothly cut and squared, and is surrounded by a colonnade and a temenos wall except behind the temple, where the colonnade is omitted (PLATE I). One column is still standing to the height of the necking, and shows a considerable entasis. Near it lies its capital of the Corinthian order, while in the rough front wall of the temple itself is a piece of an architrave which, from its rougher workmanship, and its inscription of the time of Alexander Severus (222-235 A.D.),³ would seem to have been part of the architrave of this colonnade, which is thus shown to have been of later date than the temple. Portions of the temenos wall are also *in situ*, and are of cut stones smoothed on all their faces, except in some of the lower stages along the shore of the little reservoir (*birkeh*) behind the temple, where there are some rusticated blocks (PLATE IV). This may be due to the fact that the wall was first built under Agrippa I, and then rebuilt at a later date, as stated earlier in this article.

The whole temple is built of black basalt in blocks of various sizes, and often of different heights, but finely cut and laid without mortar. All the ornaments are beautifully carved, and the mouldings are well defined. Altogether it is a very good example of the architecture of the Roman period in Syria during the second century of our era.

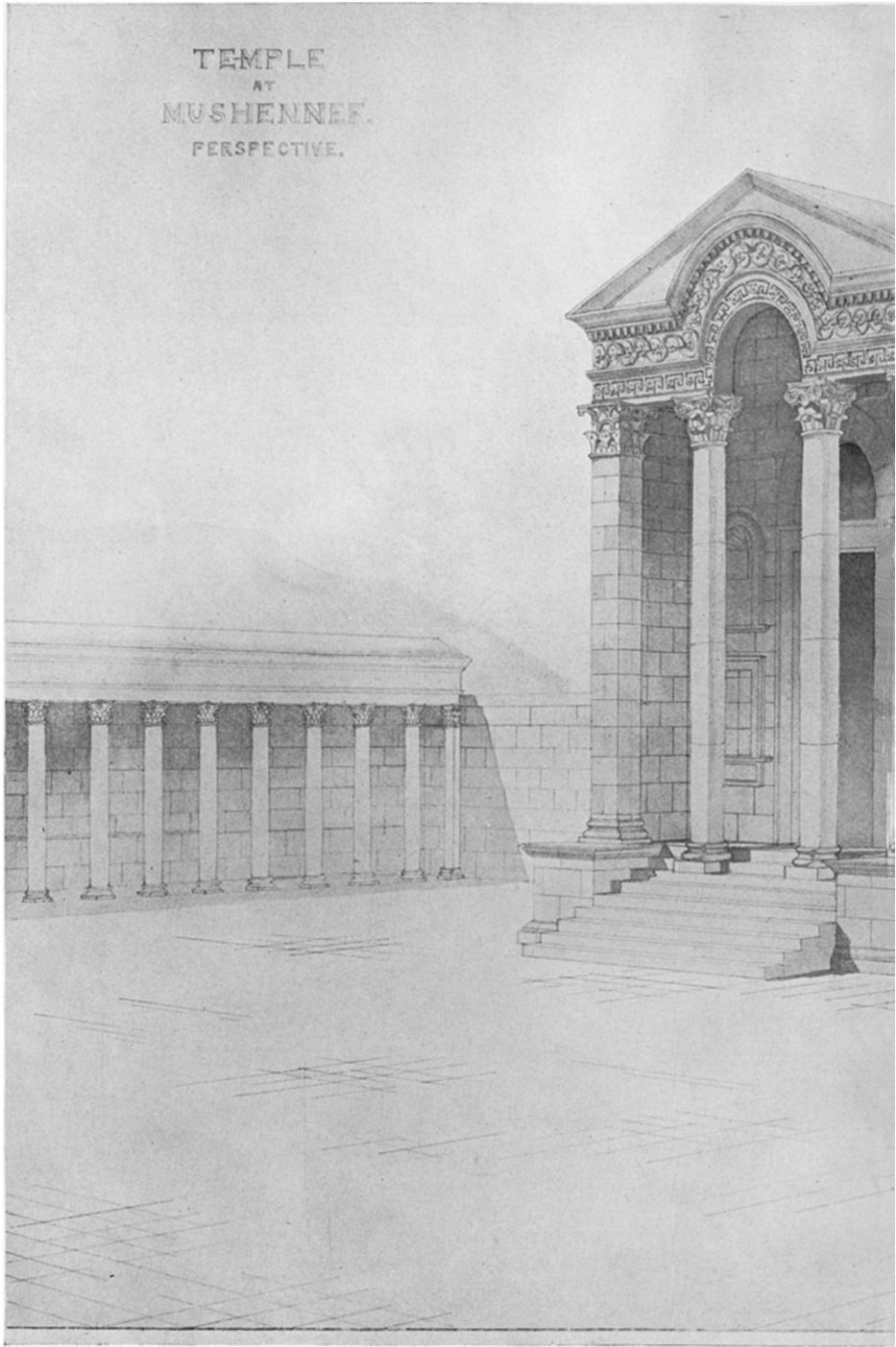
CLARENCE WARD.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.

¹ Butler, *op. cit.* p. 346.

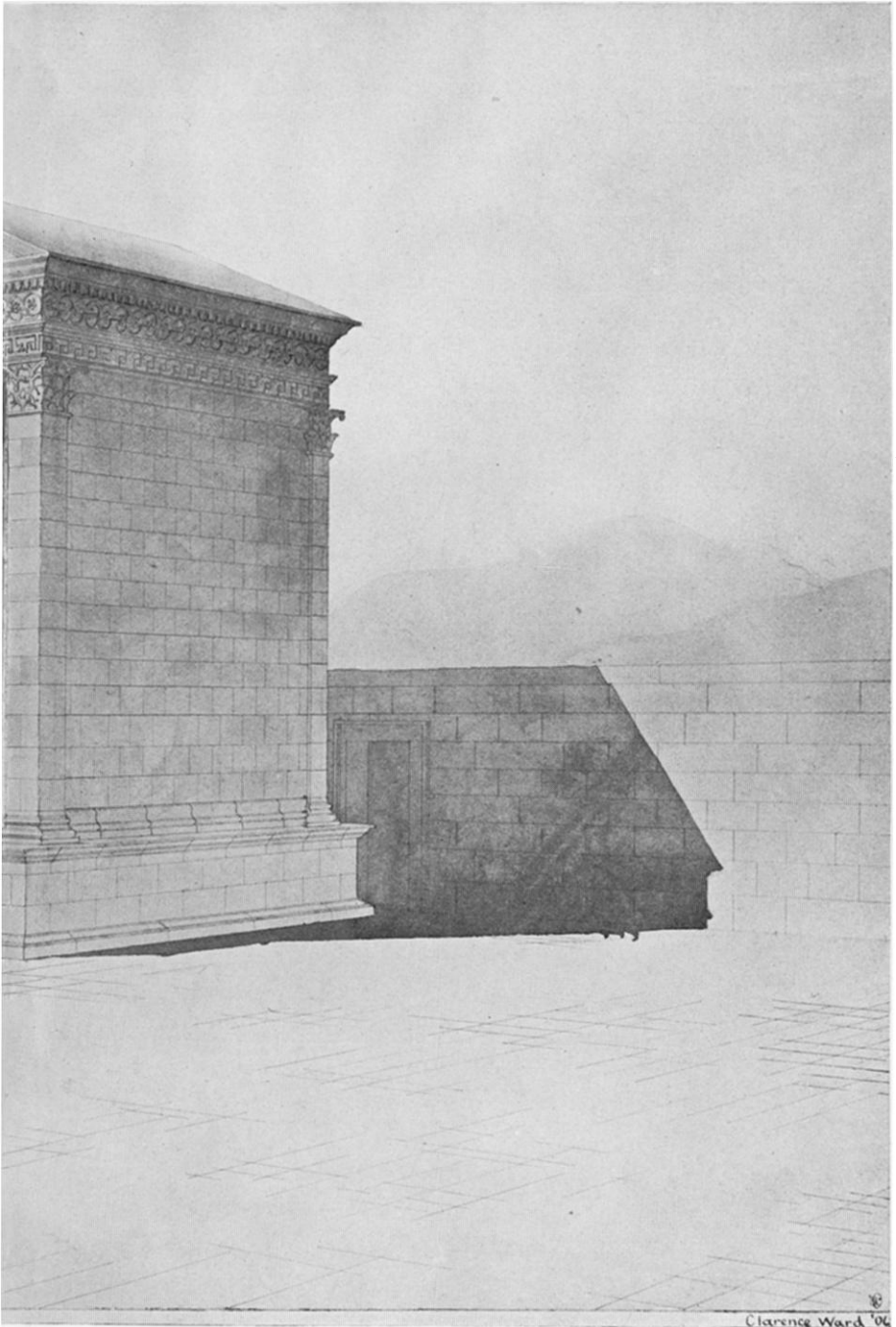
² *E.g.* Kaşiriyeh at Shaḡḡā, De Vogüé, *op. cit.* Pl. 9; Butler, *op. cit.* p. 371, and the Praetorium at Mousmyeh, G. Rey, *Voyage dans le Haouran*, Pl. 3.

³ Prentice, *op. cit.* No. 382.

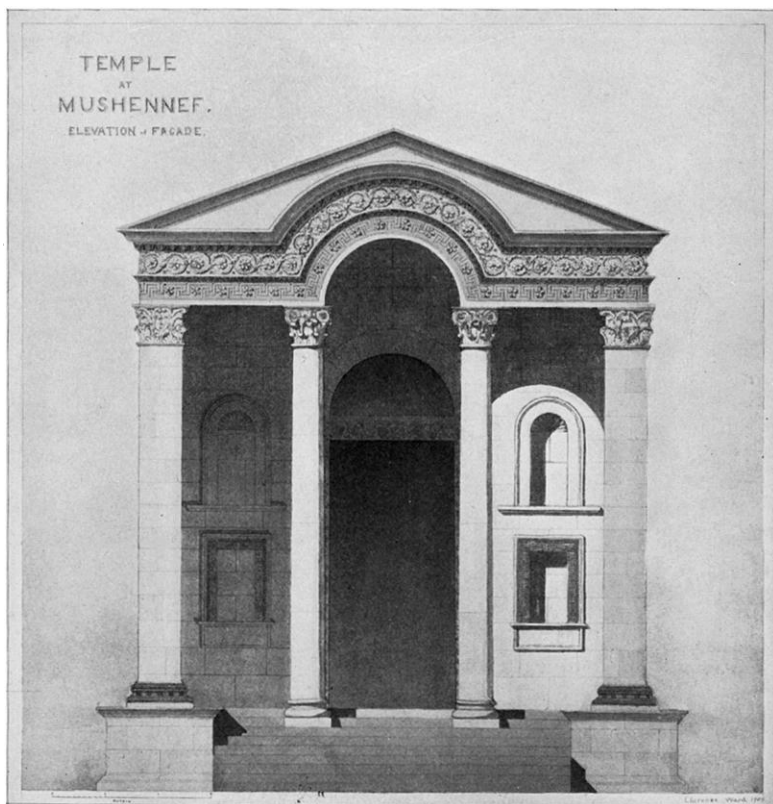


TEMPLE
AT
MUSHENNEF.
PERSPECTIVE.

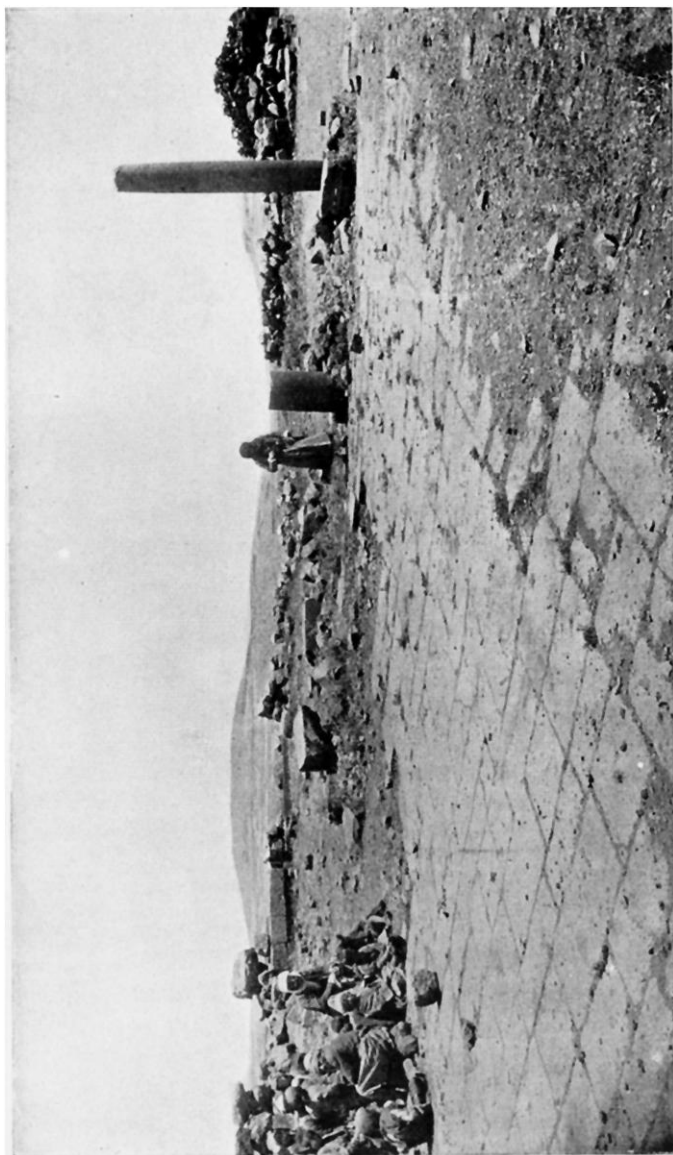
TEMPLE AT MUSHE



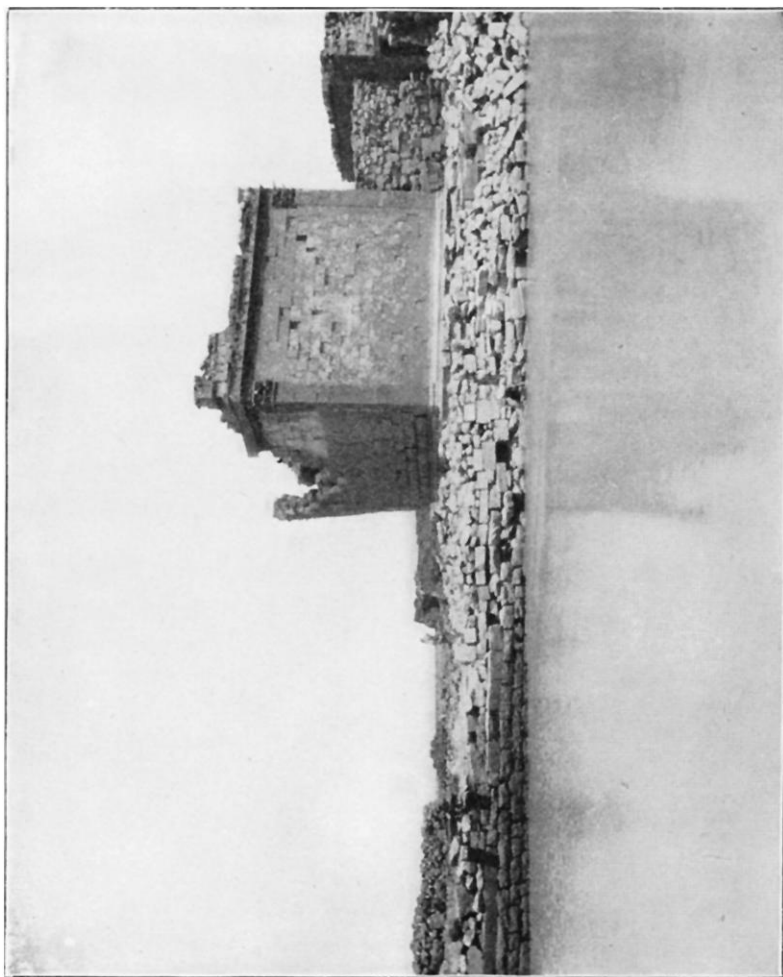
NNEF. PERSPECTIVE



TEMPLE AT MUSHENNEF. ELEVATION OF FAÇADE



WALL, COLUMN, AND PAVEMENT OF TEMENOS AT MUSHENNEF. VIEW TOWARD NORTHEAST



TEMPLE AT MUSHENNEF, FROM WEST, ACROSS RESERVOIR